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**Saskatchewan's Stone Buildings**  
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#### COVER:

The Alexander Residence, Arts and Crafts style house built in 1912 and designated a municipal heritage property in 2001, was home to Dr. Harold Alexander, head of the Surgery Department at St. Paul's Hospital. Photo: Darrell Noakes

# Join the Green Team

**G**oing green is no longer just a fashionable option, but is becoming a necessity. On the home

make good green sense. Home owners are becoming much more conscious in the choices they make whether

vation programs. And while many of the endeavours are happening at a municipal level, individuals and businesses are forming proactive "green" groups as well. After all, it is individuals who make up the energy and effect a group or association can have as a whole.

In this issue, we take a look at some of the many ways in which Saskatoon has become green, from entrepreneurial endeavour to city policy.

Saskatoon is fortunate to have a wealth of professionals in the home industry, who can help you to make your residence a more efficient, comfortable and attractive place to live. Whether your home goal is to become more sustainable or more stylish, they are there to offer their products and expertise. Many of them advertise in the pages of Saskatoon Home...check out what they can do for you.

In the meantime, think of what you can do as an individual to do your part in contributing to a more sustainable Saskatoon. A thousand acts of green can make a difference.

DONNA STURMANIS  
EDITOR



front, architects, builders, developers, renovators and contractors are stepping up to the plate in incorporating sustainability into their projects. Suppliers are introducing products that are environmentally-friendly whether they are made of reclaimed materials or

it's as simple as carrying reusable shopping bags or purchasing energy-efficient appliances.

Like many cities, Saskatoon is creating initiatives to become more sustainable, whether it's through development of affordable housing to energy conser-

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# FRONTLINES

## Saskatchewan Led Canada's Economy in 2008

Statistics Canada has confirmed what most economic forecasters have been saying for months -- that Saskatchewan had the fastest growing economy of all Canadian provinces in 2008.

The report shows that Saskatchewan's economy grew by 4.4 per cent in 2008, the highest in the nation, and

well ahead of the national average of 0.5 per cent. In the west, Alberta decreased by 0.2 per cent, British Columbia was down by 0.3 per cent while Manitoba increased by 2.4 per cent. Only five provinces had economic growth in 2008.

"Our economy in 2008 outpaced other provinces with strong activity in the resource sector and in agriculture," said enterprise and innovation minister Lyle Stewart. "We have made considerable investment in infrastructure and major personal tax cuts that will definitely set Saskatchewan

apart from other provinces in the coming year."

For 2009, most major forecasters predict Saskatchewan will be the only province to post economic growth.

"Saskatchewan is not immune to the economic challenges faced globally, but we are in a great position to fend off the major declines experienced in much of Canada and stay on track over the coming year," said Stewart.

PROVINCE OF SASKATCHEWAN

## Station 20 West Still Hopeful for Go-Ahead

Station 20 West Community Enterprise Centre is shovel-ready and ready to go, says project manager Paul Wilkinson.

"Basically, the foundation plans are in the hands of the city and we're hoping to get a permit approved," he says.



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Unfortunately, the project is still "a little bit short of money." To date, the developer has commitments totalling \$1.85 million toward the projected cost of the building cost of \$5.8 million. The organization had been aiming to \$3 million by February.

"What we would like to do this year is start immediately and put the foundation in and shell in the building, which would mean that the building framed in and completely finished on the exterior," he says. "That would take until December. The total cost of that would be 2.3 million."

If Station 20 West can reach that amount by June 1, "we will proceed immediately," Wilkinson says. Otherwise, the project start

would likely have to be delayed until next year.

The group is hoping that it qualifies for federal stimulus funding, as well, but does not know when it might hear from the government. It also depends on Saskatoon city council adding Station 20 to the city's list of priority projects.

Good Food Junction Coop, a full service grocery store, has already committed to become one of the tenants of Station 20 West, Wilkinson says. The neighbourhood has been described as a "food desert," he says, since the last of the downtown grocery stores left more than a decade ago.

Station 20 West has been struggling since the provincial government pulled an \$8 million commitment

to the project, promised by the previous NDP administration, in April 2009. The province said it needed the money to fund health care infrastructure throughout the province.

A new branch library is located in the Saskatoon Housing Authority affordable housing development, which opened just north of the Station 20 West site in April, Wilkinson adds.

"That's really something, because there hasn't been a public library on 20<sup>th</sup> Street for years and years and years," he says.

DARRELL NOAKES

### Rivergreen on Track with Award-winning Design Team

Rivergreen Ecovillage, at River Landing Phase II, continues to build on last year's design charrette, having engaged the services of Dudley Thompson of Prairie Architects in Winnipeg. The firm has a "huge history of sustainability," including LEED certified projects, and a wide variety of architecture, says Rivergreen co-manager Rick Olmstead. Prairie Architects is noted for its design of the award-

winning Mountain Equipment Coop building in downtown Winnipeg.

Olmstead says he expects to have the architectural plans and models by the end of May.

The revised approach will let the project proceed in phases, responding to financing and demand.

"We're quite excited about that," he says. "We've got a very, very loyal group of customers or potential customers," he adds. "We've been really impressed with that."

Residential tenants are content to wait until the project is ready for them to move in, he says.

DARRELL NOAKES

### Affordable Housing in Saskatchewan Gets a \$161 Million Boost

The Government of Canada and the Province of Saskatchewan are partnering on a joint investment to build new and renovate existing affordable housing. This investment will help create jobs, strengthen the economy and improve the quality of life for Saskatchewan families.

Both levels of government officially signed an amendment to the Canada-Saskatchewan Affordable Housing Program Agreement and an extension to the Canada-Saskatchewan Housing Renovation Program Agreement, resulting in a joint investment of more than \$161 million over the next two years.

Monarch Yards, an affordable rental housing project for low-income families has officially opened in Saskatoon.

Ed Komarnicki, Federal Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Human Resources and Skills Development Canada and to the Minister of Labour, on behalf of Diane Finley, Minister of HRSDC and Minister Responsible for Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation, along with Saskatchewan's Social Services Minister and Minister responsible for the Saskatchewan Housing Corporation Donna Harpauer made the announcement at a signing ceremony earlier in May.

"The Government of Canada continues to work hard to support Canadians during these challenging economic times and has moved aggressively to ensure Canada's Economic Action Plan is implemented rapidly," said Komarnicki. "We are helping the most vulnerable, including seniors and persons with disabilities, access suitable, affordable housing, as well as making needed renovations to existing social housing both in Saskatchewan and across Canada."

"Together with our federal partners, our government is strongly committed to making affordable housing available in Saskatchewan," Harpauer said. "We welcome this significant investment, which underlines our resolve to honour this historical agreement and to build brighter futures for Saskatchewan families, seniors and persons with disabilities."

The announcement includes federal funding of \$66

million over two years under Canada's Economic Action Plan as part of a one-time investment of more than \$2 billion to build new and renovate existing social housing in Canada. The province will also contribute \$66 million for these initiatives over the next two years.

These investments build upon the \$1.9-billion commitment for housing and homelessness programs announced by the Government of Canada in September 2008, which extended the Affordable Housing Initiative and the renovation programs for low-income households for two years. Today's announcement includes a further combined investment of \$29 million by both levels of government for the two-year extensions to build new affordable housing and assist low-income households with needed renovations to their homes.

Overall, the federal contribution is \$84 million, while the province is contributing a further \$77 million for the combined investment of over \$161 million.

CANADA MORTGAGE AND HOUSING CORPORATION

### Saskatchewan Cities Lead in Growth

Saskatoon and Regina are once again expected to lead the way in economic growth among 13 major Canadian cities in 2009, according to the Conference Board of Canada's metropolitan outlook for spring.

"Saskatoon and Regina will not match their spectacular 2008 growth rates, but they have enough economic momentum to top all other census metropolitan areas (CMAs) again this year," said Alan Arcand, principal economist for the outlook report.

After growing by a nation-leading seven per cent last year, Saskatoon's economy will increase by 1.7 per cent in 2009. Regina's economy, which grew by 5.3 per cent in 2008, will be right behind Saskatoon, with projected 1.6-per-cent growth in 2009.

Strong in-migration into both Saskatchewan cities will continue to support housing construction activity and demand for services, the report said.

The Conference Board attributed Regina's continued economic growth to large capital projects, including the Consumers' Co-operative Refineries Ltd. \$1.9-billion expansion, the development of the global transportation hub west of the city and \$180-million redevelopment of Evraz Place.

John Hopkins, CEO of the Regina & District Chamber of Commerce, agreed that the megaprojects are giving Regina's economy a significant boost.

"There are many major projects moving ahead in the Regina area," he said. "That, in and of itself, will continue to foster an environment where economic growth happens."

Hopkins said he was encouraged to see the Conference Board forecast population growth of 1.5 per cent, as well as continued job growth and low unemployment, for Regina in 2009.

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## City Housing Sales Down

Saskatoon Realtors® sold 283 residential properties in the month of March which

RealtorS® sold \$75.481 million of real estate in March which is down 33 per cent from March 2008 when \$113.206 million of real estate was sold. The drop in dollar volume is directly related to the reduced number of unit sales.

The average residential selling price was \$266,720, down eight per cent from March 2008 with an average selling price of \$289,530.

These numbers indicate a slight softening of upper price range home sales. Year to date, the average selling

The average residential price is derived by taking the month's dollar volume of homes sold and dividing that number by the unit sales number. The percentage of change should not be used unilaterally as prices vary from area to area.

Consumers wishing an accurate estimate of value for their home should contact a Realtor® member to do a comparative market analysis.

In the month of March the \$275 - \$300,000 price range saw the greatest sales activity. Twenty-three homes sold in the \$400,000 plus price range. Year to date, 69 properties have sold over \$400,000 with three

An inventory correction appears to have begun. Saskatoon Realtors® listed 662 homes in March that number on par with 2008. Year to date 1,742 homes have been placed on the market. Buyers had 1,435 properties to select from at the end of March. It will likely take the remaining part of 2009 to reduce the current larger than normal inventory level.

Confidence in the Saskatoon and Saskatchewan economy remains strong. Market activity and expectation are directly related to the employment environment.

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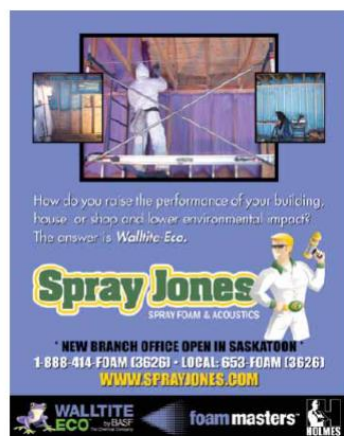
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## INNOVATORS

### Holmes- Endorsed Spray Insulation Foam Green, Unique in Canada

Looking for a spray foam insulation that's endorsed by an icon of home renovation, certified by the federal government and is safe for children?

There's only one spray foam that fits all those criteria – Walltite Eco, an innovative building product from BASF Canada which is available in Saskatchewan through Spray Jones.

Walltite Eco is the only medium density foam that has earned the federal government's environmental choice certification. It also has been certified by the Greenguard Environmental Institute (GEL) for both indoor air quality and for children and schools.

Greenguard is an industry-independent, non-profit organization that is not affiliated with any manufacturer of a product that GEL certifies.

"Walltite Eco is being used by forward-thinking individuals who are renovating an existing home or forward-thinking people who are building a new home who want to make it as air tight as possible," said Michael Dynna, who has been in the spray foam industry for almost a decade and estab-



Walltite Eco helps make a home as airtight as possible.

lished Spray Jones in 2004.

Over the years, he has seen the popularity shift for spray foam applications from the commercial to residential markets.

"The first and foremost reason for the change is the television series Holmes on Homes," said Dynna.

"People have seen the product used now for years and years by Mike Holmes and have done their own online research about spray foam products. People are building bigger and bigger homes that are extravagant. Homes aren't just a square box anymore. As a result, people spend a lot of money to build their house and

don't want to spend a lot of money on heating and air conditioning. So, they've seen the product on TV (the Holmes on Home program) and as a result we see our industry grow."

Holmes, a 46-year-old professional contractor, has become an iconic figure through his weekly television show where he rescues homeowners from renovations gone wrong. Holmes has become so credible his program has been syndicated into the United States, New Zealand, Australia, United Kingdom, Germany and South Africa.

His crews are often seen applying the purple-colored

Walltite Eco spray foam to solve problems for homeowners.

Dynna said BASF has refined the Walltite product to put less foam into a square foot of a house.

"The medium density of 1.7 pounds per square foot provides the same value and protection as the original two pounds per square foot, but there's less foam being used," he said.

Spray Jones is the premier installer of Canadian Construction Material Centre (CCMC) medium density foam in Saskatchewan. Annual sprayed volumes are double its nearest competitor.

Carl Kennedy brought a decade's worth of construction experience to Spray Jones when he joined the Saskatoon branch as manager.

Dynna is very proud of the Walltite product and the research conducted by BASF to create and then improve it.

"BASF has done a total environmental impact on Walltite Eco that was based on a total life cycle assessment of all ingredients and products," he said. "BASF has brought out the best product and ingredients at the right time."

Dynna said BASF Canada worked for the last two years on a new-to-the-market medium-density foam that will change the standard for all other foams to come.





Environmentally-friendly Walltite Eco helps make a home as airtight as possible.

Material Centre (CCMC) 12840-R for insulation, CCMC 12877-R for air barrier material and CCMC 12932-R for air barrier system.

Walltite can be applied over an exceptionally large area in a single workday with unsurpassed sealing performance. It's five times faster to apply than membrane and board stock, which facilitates on-site scheduling and results in exceptional cost efficiency.

Dynna said BASF adheres to sustainable development standards.

"Its eco-efficiency approach is designed to increase product value, optimize the use of resources and reduce environmental impact," he said. "Eco-efficiency analysis looks at the entire life cycle of a product, beginning with extraction of raw materials through to the disposal or recycling of the product."

An "ecological fingerprint" provides a picture of the environmental effect of a product in six categories:

**Materials consumption**  
**Energy consumption**  
**Emissions to air, soil, and water**  
**Risk potential for misuse**  
**Toxicity potential**  
**Land use.**

"Each of these categories embraces a wealth of detailed information, some of which comes from BASF's in-house records and some from public databases," Dynna said.

"According to this data, Walltite Eco has been proven more eco-efficient than conventional insulation/air barrier systems."

Spray Jones is a member of the elite "Foam Masters" program by BASF which includes written exams.

"Our policy is that our chief people in charge of a spray rig have a minimum of 2,000 hours spray time. You will not find this in many other spray foam companies," he said.

"The current trend in the spray foam industry is to certify people and companies quick, with little to no previous experience. We have been, and will continue to be, outspoken against this and critical of those that do not value professionalism and experience. Quality installation cannot be acquired in a two-day course."

**Info**

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ing agent. It contains both recycled plastic and renewable carbon content.

Dynna said Walltite Eco substantially reduces both air leakage and the passage of moisture through the building envelope by achieving airtight continuity across all joints, seams, construction material changes and overlaps. It eliminates convective air flow both through and around insulation, minimizes thermal bridging and controls moisture transfer.

Benefits include lower energy consumption, energy costs and protection against premature building deterioration, he said.

Walltite is an effective air barrier system listed under Canadian Construction

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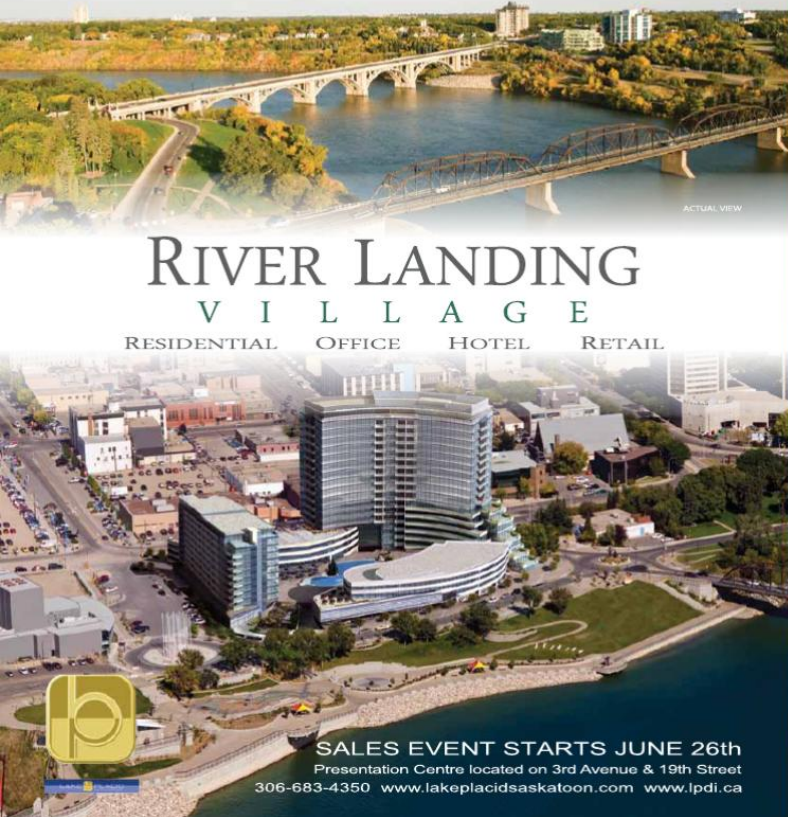


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# THE QUEST FOR A SUSTAINABLE SASKATOON

Summer has finally arrived in Saskatoon. A week after the Victoria Day holiday and the leaves were barely, tentatively emerging from their buds, as if they were uncertain that their presence was to be welcomed this year.





Yet, here it is, summer at last. It exploded upon us, as it usually does, although much later than we've become accustomed, abruptly bursting forth like a gregarious host flinging open the doors to the season's first garden party. Saskatoon's summer always steps out with an adventurous spirit.

So, here we are, awash in a green landscape, ready for a new season's adventure.

For a growing segment of Saskatoon's movers and shakers in the building industry, their clients and leaders in the community, there a new kind of green taking hold. To these people, it must feel as though the city is emerging from a long, cold winter of another kind, arriving every bit as hesitantly as the summer of 2009.



Consider, for example, that organizations such as Road Map 2020 and the Canada Green Building Council formed five or more years ago, aim to ignite in our citizenry and politicians a passion to create a more sustainable and environmentally green Saskatoon.

More recently, groups such as Rooted and Urban Playground and We Are Many have sprouted to push for green change. These are but a handful of the more than three dozen non-profits non-government organizations, environmental groups and other agencies networking to bring about

a shift in the way we approach development and growth.

And the city is changing. It wasn't noticeable at first, at least not to the vast majority of people who quite naturally are preoccupied with keeping up with the pace of their lives.

Look around our core neighbourhoods to see the revitalization that is taking place, and doing so at an increasing pace. It's not just the pace, but also the methods. At one time, old homes would have been torn down and hauled off to the dump. Instead, these buildings are now finding new use elsewhere in the city. Private developments and affordable housing initiatives are employing green technologies in their design, construction and operation, even in their landscaping.

For instance, I happened to view an innovative Martensville home that makes use of solar hot water and solar hot air to reduce energy on the same day that Raum Energy launched its newest domestic wind turbine. The crowds that gathered at the wind company's open house included many of Saskatoon's green builders and innovators, but also a large cross section of the public. There were a lot of contracts signed that day, a definite indication that green technology isn't merely a curiosity left to enviro-freaks on the fringes of society.

I suppose it shouldn't have come as any surprise that many attending a wind turbine open house would also have known about the solar home, but I've been taken aback by the number of people I meet casually who have also heard about it. They respond with awe when they meet some-

## ***Don't blow it - good planets are hard to find.***

*~Quoted in Time*

At one time, not that long ago really, those responsible for such developments would have thought it was a big deal to work with these methods. Some would even have resisted them, fearing either that the process would cost more or that no one would be interested in buying the result.

Now, these things are becoming the talk of the town. Everybody seems to be talking about how energy-efficient the latest project will be, how much water it doesn't use, how much electricity it saves, how much material is re-used, how much waste is diverted from the landfill.

one who's actually seen it, been in it, as if they've caught a glimpse into a secret society. Perhaps what intrigues them the most is that the home is so normal, so much like places that are familiar to them. The future doesn't look like the Jetsons.

Yet, there's still a sense that going green is all about the technology, that it's something you buy, rather than something you do. In that respect, Saskatoon's sense of green still has a bit of a way to go before it matures.

DARRELL NOAKES

# How Green is Saskatoon?

## It's Becoming a Movement, Not Just a Colour

by DARRELL NOAKES





n many levels, Saskatoon has a bright future ahead as a "green" city.

The City of Saskatoon Environmental Advisory Committee identifies environmental issues of potential relevance, drawing on members' expertise in ecology, biology, chemistry, physics, geography, economics, demography, sociology, medicine, aesthetics, toxicology, engineering and conservation.

Since 2004, Road Map 2020, a non-profit partnership of the Meevasin Valley Authority, the Saskatchewan Environmental Society and the city's environmental advisory committee, has been building community awareness of the environmental, social and economic benefits of sustainable practices and working to develop a multi-sector network of community leaders interested in building a more sustainable Saskatoon for the future.

The Saskatchewan chapter of the Canada Green Building Council draws members from throughout the province, including Saskatoon.

Groups like this bring some big guns to bear on hitting targets for sustainable and green development and growth.

Their efforts haven't escaped the attention of Corporate Knights magazine, which publishes with an explicit focus on corporate responsibility, says Dave Palibroda, president of Road Map 2020 and a consultant at Integrated Designs, a Saskatoon project management company that specializes in sustainable building projects.

In January, Corporate Knights ranked Saskatoon the second most sustainable Canadian city under 250,000 population. The city scored 6.12 out of 10 points, barely trailing Yellowknife at 6.14. Canada's top cities, Edmonton and Halifax, scored 7.31 and 6.94 in the large and medium categories, respectively.



Photo: Courtesy of Innovation Place

Environmental design approaches applied to the new building at 121 Research Drive, completed in 2007, make this one of the most energy-aware structures in the country.

Saskatoon's strong affordable housing program, with support for low-income homeowners, tax exemptions for affordable development and priority given to affordable housing, helped raise its sustainability score. Residents spend about 18 per cent of their annual income on shelter, the publication noted. Saskatoon's year-round farmers' market also raised the city's ranking.

The scores were derived from data available from Anielski Institute, Canada Green Building Council, Corporate Knights survey, Environment Canada, The Frontier Centre for Public Policy, Human Resources and Skills Development Canada, Life Satisfaction and Trust in Neighbours study, MoneySense 2008 "The Best Places to do Business in Canada," Statistics Canada and municipal websites and tourism bureaus.

But it's not all rosy, either. Saskatoon is criticized for its exceptionally high level of car dependency, which StatsCan pegs at 86 per cent. Less car-dependent Canadian cities manage to bring that down to about 50 to 70 per cent, although only 29 per cent of Montrealers get around everywhere by car. Automobile dependency is mainly a function of housing density,

StatsCan notes, with residents living in lower-density "suburban-type" neighbourhoods most likely to spend a lot of time fuming in their cars. In addition, sprawling cities, regardless of density, tend to promote car dependency, the government agency adds.

Our city is also a hog when it comes to water use, which the Centre for the Study of Living Standards reported in 2005 (the last year for which figures are available) works out to 501.7 litres per person daily, the second highest in the country.

"As green cities go, it seems like we're good and bad," says Palibroda. "We have the potential, [but] we're still expanding, still sprawling out, because we don't have anything limiting us. Everybody who's got some land outside the city is subdividing and developing it. There's nothing stopping that. It's just increasing the need for driving and decreasing density. But then again, we have all this renewal downtown, where there's a lot of good going on."

#### Slow Road to Sustainability

Although Saskatoon has no LEED-certified buildings currently, Palibroda notes that at least two are

working their way through the certification process — the Law College on the University of Saskatchewan campus and 121 Research Drive in Innovation Place.

Developers are catching on, embracing green development with increasing vigour. Good examples come from developers like Curtis Olson, whose in-fill projects in Saskatoon's core neighbourhoods are turning heads, and Natasha Kuperman, with Macro Development's Tilia Meadows in Langham, says Palibroda.

"There are more and more developers like that, who are pushing the boundaries and doing things like putting solar hot water on their developments, or solar air heating — technologies that work and are affordable and make a difference," he says. "Still, I think a lot of the big developers are still leery."

Among new subdivisions, Evergreen provides an example of sustainability, says Palibroda.

"That's only one subdivision," he says. "There have been a lot of subdivisions. We have a lot of good examples, but then we also have a lot of bad examples."



Like most things in civil society, we can't expect "someone else" or government to do it all. It's going to take individual effort and commitment, says Palibroda. Government can help, though, through incentives such as grants and tax breaks that nudge citizens in the right direction.

"These home renovation grants are great," says Palibroda, adding that the combination of tax credits and energy efficiency grants available to homeowners is making a difference.

"As I walk down the street, walk around the block, I see people doing that all the time," he says. "On older homes, they'll take off the [siding] and they'll put a new skin, a vapour barrier lining and start insulating from the outside and upgrading the windows. I think there's going to be a lot more of that if these grants keep up."

"You get greening of Saskatoon little bit by little bit, house by house," adds Palibroda. "Every little bit adds up."

Palibroda notes that it's all about "negawatts," a term coined by physicist and environmentalist Amory Lovins. Lovins, who stumbled upon the word after spotting a typographical error in a utilities commission report, uses it to refer to electrical generation rendered unnecessary through energy efficiency. The word has a certain appeal, and its use is catching on.

Consider, for example, that SaskPower forecasts that Saskatchewan will need 1,750 megawatts of new power generation by 2020 and possibly as much as 3,000 additional megawatts by 2030 if current trends continue unabated. To a large extent, it's that future demand that is fueling the nuclear power debate in the province. If conservation and efficiency efforts could cap future demands at, say, 1000 megawatts, the forecast would be reduced by 2,000 megawatts by 2030. That's "negawatts," and it opens

the door to considering alternative energy sources as a viable option.

"It's quite realistic to think that we could get 500 megawatts from electricity conservation," says Peter Prebble, director of energy and water policy for the Saskatchewan Environmental Society, adding that the province could meet 20 per cent of its electrical demands from wind, with the rest coming from small scale hydro, biomass and waste heat recovery.

Building codes and civic regulations passed during a time when "green" was just a colour, and not a movement, can inhibit Saskatoon's ability to become a more sustainable city. For example, Palibroda points to regulations that stand in the way of innovative construction techniques, unconventional building materials and alternative energy sources.

## "You can't have a composting toilet in the city."

"You can't build a straw bale home in Saskatoon," says Palibroda. "If you wanted to, every single bale has to be stamped by an engineer."

"It's the absolute lowest embodied energy material you can get in Saskatchewan. It's not hay. You're not taking food away from animals."

"You can't have a composting toilet in the city."

There may be good reasons for the regulations, he says. The city follows the National Building Code, and if something isn't mentioned in the code, it won't be permitted in the city. That doesn't necessarily mean it's unsafe. It just means that no one ever felt a need to consider it before now. Although the building code is reviewed regularly, it takes time to get changes approved. In the meantime,

municipal governments can still take steps in the right direction, such as protecting solar access rights and loosening restrictions that curtail wind generation.

### A Thousand Acts of Green?

In other areas, a green shift has already begun to take shape, says Palibroda. Every grocery chain now has its green product line. Stores are charging extra for plastic bags, if they haven't got rid of them completely. The city has a good waste management plan.

"Look at the boom of the farmers' market," he says. "That's a great step there. You get people out, meeting the community, meeting the other farmers. It's a great catalyst for a lot of other change."

"It's got to be a little bit of everything," he continues. "There has to be some mandated change from the top. We also need the whole 'million acts of green thing.' Hit it from the bottom. Hit it from the top. We'll end up at a good place in the middle."

"There's no one way, no one path," he says. "It's everybody doing a little bit." Michael Molaro, a founding member of the Saskatchewan chapter of the Canada Green Building Council, says he has seen some promising changes in recent years.

"Although the city is expanding to a great degree, they're also looking at in-fill which is a very positive and green thing to do, for density of residential in particular, in the downtown and close to the downtown core," he says. "Density really allows us to maintain and renew our infrastructure more economically." When a city starts to get spread out, such as has occurred in Calgary and Edmonton, road, water and sewer costs escalate.

"I think we want to learn from what others have done around density," continues Molaro. "It certainly supports safety and security, transit, al-

ternative forms of transportation. The city, in recent years especially, has made great strides in increasing (transit) service and ridership."

### When a City Steps Up

Molaro points out that the City of Saskatoon's new greenhouse gas management plan sets a performance standard of LEED certification for all new municipal buildings. The plan also promotes community-wide demonstration projects to encourage the development of green and LEED certified buildings. Such projects might include development at River Landing or a co-generation facility at the University of Saskatchewan. The city also aims to establish demonstration sustainable neighbourhoods, with the potential application of LEED Neighbourhood standards applied to new developments.

"A lot of municipal governments have stated targets," says Molaro. "The city of Vancouver is LEED Gold. The city of Calgary, Silver. Here's Saskatoon saying they'll certify to LEED for their facilities, which is great."

"In Canada and the US for that matter, it's very much a grassroots effort, 'grassroots' meaning municipalities, not so much big government," he says.

"If you go to Europe, a lot of it's regulated, top down," Molaro explains. "They're so far ahead of us in terms of sustainability, in many areas, but in Canada and the US, it's often not the government regulators that are leading us, it's people in the green building industry, it's developers, architects, engineers and the like that want to transform the industry to more responsible building practices."

Molaro likes the LEED approach because it's easy to implement.

"LEED by its nature applies lo-tech," he says. "Going back to buildings that have thin floor plates, buildings that have windows that actually open and

have natural ventilation and daylight and views. Building buildings like we did before the advent of air conditioning is in a large part what LEED advocates, a more passive approach. That should be number one, before you throw technology into the building. It should be all the passive things that can be done, integrating the mechanical and the architectural."

## "But it's not like the city's hands are tied either."

Municipal regulations can really shape how well a city like Saskatoon can demonstrate its commitment to sustainability, says Molaro. For example, it's counterproductive to have zoning regulations that require double garages in new subdivisions.

"That's discouraging, to say the least. I can't humbly stand aside and say that's nice. I don't agree with that. I think the city is addressing that to some degree."

Building codes can also throw up roadblocks. Molaro cites challenges around plumbing codes, including issues such as reusing "grey" water and collecting rainwater for use within the house. But it's not like the city's hands are tied, either.

"Municipalities have the power to reinterpret and, within the confines of their municipality, they can make the ruling," he says.

### Alternative Energy Planning and Mixed Density

If there's one issue that strikes a nerve with Molaro, it's neighbourhood development, especially in subdivisions such as Stonebridge.

"One of the triggers there for me is solar," he says. "When I look at a neighbourhood like Stonebridge, there's no regard for solar orientation. There's

little regard for compact development, infrastructure development, shared energy or any of the issues that could be applied in new development."

"It would be nice to go back to the old model of mixed incomes in an income in a neighbourhood as well, rather than getting into more of the gated communities."

A green Saskatoon would also return to a district energy model in the city's core says Molaro.

"The university's been supplying steam and cooling for its buildings since its inception 100 years ago," he says. "We even used to produce some of our own power in our early days. The model is extremely economical over its life cycle."

"The downtown has terrific density," he says. "Cities like New York and some of the larger northeastern U.S. cities have district energy. Conn-Edison is a huge supplier of steam to millions of square feet of office space."

"The efficiencies are proven and I'd love to see that in a green Saskatoon."

### Planning Group Forms Green Partnerships

The public seems to be becoming more knowledgeable about sustainability issues, says Heather Landine, sustainable communities development project facilitator for Road Map 2020. Landine has temporarily stepped in to replace Mary Beckie, who left as executive director to return to the University of Alberta in April.

"I think the sheer fact that [sustainability is] more present in the media, that's allowing people to gain more knowledge," she says. "There's been a fair bit more media coverage on how to live green and how to be more sustainable in your own practices, in the

media in the past few years than ever before."

Landine points out that Road Map 2020 has been focusing its efforts on working with industry — companies and corporations — to get them to look at their own actions and to find ways to reduce their own greenhouse gas emissions.

The most recent Road Map 2020 forum, "Reimagining Transportation; Redesigning Communities," held in April, considered the ways in which Saskatoon could develop more sustainable transportation models.

Landine says the forum provided an opportunity for Road Map 2020 to welcome four new sustainability champions: TCU Place, Saskatoon Media Group, PEDCO & the University of Saskatchewan Students Union.

"We currently have 30 businesses and groups that have signed on as champions, that have made a commitment to reduce their own greenhouse gas emissions. The goal for this year is 10 (new champions), so we will be signing on quite a few more. The more we can get to sign on, the better."

Much of the non-profit group's current emphasis has been on transportation. City Park is the subject of a pilot project, with residents participating in a survey to obtain baseline information on current and potential sustainable transportation practices in this neighbourhood.

"A lot more people are aware of the options and there's a fair bit of acceptance to implement them into their routines," says Landine.

#### Small Changes Make Big Differences

A sustainable Saskatoon wouldn't look radically different from what it does now, says Road Map's Heather Landine.



The College of Law expansion, completed in 2007, is one of Saskatoon's leading examples of sustainable building. The facility features natural light to over 75 per cent of the interior spaces. Saskatchewan is first extensive living roof and a displacement ventilation system providing 100 per cent outdoor air to the building. Sustainable construction practices resulted in the use of building materials comprised of 32 per cent recycled content, while on-site recycling and construction salvage diverted 87 per cent of construction waste from the landfill.

Photo: Courtesy of Dave Pallbrod

"I don't think there's a lot of infrastructure changes that would need to happen," she says. "I would really like to see a bylaw for green building standards. I think that's something Road Map should be looking towards this year — minimum building codes that could be upgraded to include a certain percentage of housing industries (to use) alternative power, geothermal right off the base, things like that. I'd like to see that implemented city wide."

The city could set waste standards for residential neighbourhoods, Landine adds. Such regulation would make it easier to apply LEED standards reduce the amount of waste diverted to the landfill.

"Those are fairly simplistic things the city could implement in terms of a bylaw."

"There's a lot of antiquated bylaws in place, but not a lot of new ones being put through," she says. "Even in terms of building materials that you can still purchase, if we're really trying to get people to conserve water why are we still selling standard toilets? Why aren't dual flush and low flush the only options?"

Sustainability also means having more convenient access to recycling centres, she says.

"The city's about 15 years behind other cities in Canada in terms of access to recycling. We're trying to

work with the City of Saskatoon on improving personal access to recycling centres. That's a big hurdle in some areas."

Landine notes that it takes about 20 years for a new concept to become a social norm.

"I think sustainability is, realistically, at year five or six on this scale. I know it's been around for decades, but it's always been an 'out there' concept and only some people have been willing to deal with it."

A greener Saskatoon is all about trying to get people to implement small changes in their lives, she explains. It is these small steps that will add up to a successful and sustainable municipal journey.

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## Clean and green plan: City to lead by example

Saskatoon's Energy and Greenhouse Gas Management Plan came about through the collaboration of the City of Saskatoon and Road Map 2020.

### Targets

- Reduce corporate (municipal) emissions by 10% below 1990 levels by 2013, and
- Reduce community emissions by 6% below 1990 levels by 2013.

### Vision

The City's vision is to become a leader in renewable energy, energy conservation and management of greenhouse gas emissions. "We possess a wealth of resources and strong sense of community where residents and business work collectively," they state. "We will build on this foundation to enhance economic prosperity, and improve environmental and social health for future generations."

### Goals

**Goal 1: Build an energy-aware community.** In 2013, Saskatoon residents will understand the importance of Energy and GHG Management and be effectively engaged in helping the community meet the Energy and GHG Management Plan vision. Business and industry will also be active partners in implementing the Energy and GHG Management Plan.

**Goal 2: Create a healthy community.** In 2013, energy planning has improved the quality of life of Saskatoon residents by enabling active modes of transportation and by decreasing energy-related emissions.

**Goal 3: Achieve a diverse and environmentally-sustainable energy system.** In 2013, Saskatoon will have a diverse energy system that emphasizes the use of local resources and alternatives to fossil fuels. The energy system will create opportunities for local businesses and suppliers.

**Goal 4: Design and build green and smart.** In 2013, energy-efficient planning and "green" system design practices ensure that land use needs are met in a sustainable way and that sustainable choices are easily made.

**Goal 5: Be responsible stewards of our resources.** In 2013, energy planning has helped to ensure that the community can meet its needs without negative impact to the local and global environment. All decisions relating to the use of resources consider the full environmental cost.

**Goal 6: Lead by "green" example.** In 2013, the City will be a leader at implementing energy management best practices in municipal operations and as a result encourage action by residents, businesses and other municipalities.

### Some of the ways Saskatoon will meet its GHG reduction goals:

- Reduce automobile trips.
- Implement "smart growth" principles and green buildings.
- Promote residential, institutional, commercial and industrial energy efficiency.
- Implement domestic water conservation, including rate review.
- Promote xeriscaping to residents and businesses.
- Encourage active transportation.
- Purchase green energy.
- Develop a district heating system.
- Pursue a wind power project.
- Capture and use landfill gas for power generation.
- Research centralized organics facility.
- LEED certification on all new civic facilities.
- Compact community development.



# Fresh and local in downtown

## Ethical food for metro folk

**T**ucked away behind a popular Broadway district restaurant, there's a tiny piece of paradise soaking up the sun and giving back sustenance.

"We have a garden in our parking lot that we put in place about 10 years ago," says Calories Bakery and Restaurant owner and general manager Janis Cousyn.

Photo: Courtesy Janis Cousyn



The south facing wall of the Broadway Theatre reflects warmth and provides shelter for the sunny location, assuring an abundant crop of herbs, Swiss chard, edible flowers and other delights served in the restaurant.

"It's a lovely place to go out for your coffee break," Cousyn laughs. "You can sit outside, or pick some herbs or fresh flowers."

A plot at the City Park Community Garden, tended by Cousyn's brother, provides another source of local produce. Last year, for example, potatoes, squash, zucchini blossoms, beans and beets found their way from City Park to Calories' plates.

### Zucchini blossoms?

"We pick the flowers and we do beer-battered zucchini blossoms," says Cousyn. "It's awesome. They're great. The flowers are delicious."

"City Park is a really great community and it's a wonderful garden."

While the parking lot and community gardens make ready sources of fresh

produce for the restaurant, they obviously can't meet all the needs of such a busy establishment.

"The bulk of our produce, almost all of our produce in the actual season, comes from local farmers," says Cousyn.

"We work with those same producers year round, as much as possible, for things like potatoes and root vegetables. We use local potatoes in our french fries, organic potatoes year round."

"We've been doing this for about 10 years already. We started doing it before it really became trendy. We did it because personally that was important to us," she adds.

When the restaurant started looking for locally sourced foods a decade ago, the practice was virtually unheard of, Cousyn notes. Local farmers hadn't really considered a market that included restaurants. Consistency of supply is important. A restaurant depends on its ingredients being delivered on time, especially when those ingredients are farm-fresh.

Chef Rémi Cousyn takes a break in Calories' parking lot garden.



Broadway's hidden paradise parking lot garden produces herbs, Swiss chard, flowers and other tidbits that grace Calories' plates.



Local duck pate with garden flowers harvested from Calories' parking lot garden.

The restaurant lists on its website more than two dozen local suppliers that it deals with regularly. Menus acknowledge the contributions of those and other local producers who make the fare unique.

Earlier this year, Calories' owners and their partners at Pineview Farms, near Osler, announced that their next venture would find them teaming up to help end Saskatoon's downtown "food desert." Grocery shopping had all but dried up when Extra Foods pulled the last grocery store out of the city's core when it closed its 3rd Avenue location in 2004.

Souleio Foods, a "European style market" in the McLean Building at 263 3rd Avenue South, opens in early June. The store will feature the same locally grown meats and produce found at the restaurant. Calories is also moving its bakery production to Souleio.

Souleio's focus will be on quick service and pre-prepared meals featuring locally sourced and organic inputs, says Cousyn.

Cousyn, joined by local journalist and foodie Amy Jo Ehman, spoke at the Road Map 2020 forum in April, delivering an address, "In Our Own Backyard — Why Local Matters in Saskatoon."

"Consumers are more and more concerned about where their food has come from and how it has been produced," she told delegates. "Ethical consumers" expect a restaurant to be

environmentally responsible, to use organic, natural, locally produced food, serve fair trade coffee, feature the right fish species, and financially to charitable and community causes.

"We have spent time thinking about how we live and work on this earth and are proud of our accomplishments," she said.

DARRELL NOAKES

## Urban harvest: Grassroots group grows produce in secret city gardens

There's a growing local food movement in Saskatoon, and groups like Rooted are tapping into it.

Rooted, which got its start on the University of Saskatchewan campus two years ago, wants to revitalize unused urban space. In particular, this group of students and volunteers from throughout the community hopes to raise awareness about alternative food production in an ecologically fragile world.

"Basically, we're trying to promote urban food production," says Jessie Best, one of the students driving Rooted forward. "We're trying to make food accessible to lower income families."

"Our two main missions is to teach people about why it's important to grow your own food, and teach them how to grow their own food," she says.

The group started by organizing rooftop gardens. A container garden atop Calories Bakery and Restaurant became one of its earlier successes.

Many buildings wouldn't be able to support a fully fledged rooftop garden, but there are plenty of other places in the city suitable for local food production.

Patio gardens, container gardens and backyard gardens all help fulfill Rooted's goal.

The patio at Louis's Pub on campus got a container garden, for example.

"Those were the ones that we did last year," says Jessie Best, one of the students driving Rooted forward. "We're hoping to expand to an apartment building, but we don't have any other rooftop sites. We've got more backyard gardens and stuff like that."

The group will donate the gardens' produce to Saskatoon's Child Hunger Education Program (CHEP).

"We're working really closely with CHEP, in the sense that we're kind of a community gardening initiative, but we're more mobile," says Best. "We're using back yards instead of plots appointed by the city."

Rooted is currently working with Core Neighbourhood Youth Co-op to establish a container gardens project for Saskatoon's core neighbourhoods, says Best.

Rooted is seeing increasing interest from homeowners looking for ways to put their yards to more productive use.

"There's been a lot of people who are really intent on finding alternatives to our current system of transporting food thousands of miles before it gets to our plates," says Best. "There's a lot of interest in the local food movement."

In addition to growing familiar produce such as tomatoes, peas, beans, lettuce, chard, squash, zucchini and cucumbers, the group has been branching out into heirloom seeds.

"We've been using a lot of heirloom seeds from Jim Ternier," says Best.

Ternier owns Prairie Garden Seeds, headquartered in Humboldt and with seed-growing operations at St. Peter's Abbey in Muenster and a farm near Cochin. The company specializes in certified organic heritage seed production.

"We're hoping to learn how to do a whole bunch of seed saving later this fall," says Best. "It's another way to become self-reliant."

The group is also working with We Are Many and university professors on an initiative to get some school yard gardens set up, says Best, with results expected by next summer at the latest.

DARRELL NOAKES



Photo: Darrell Noakes

The two vertical panels pre-heat air for the furnace and heat recovery ventilator. During spring and fall, the panels can forestall use of the furnace all together. The lower air and photovoltaic panels comprise the solar space heater circulating warm air through the study alcove.

## A House with Sun Sense Solar System Heats Suburban Home

### At first glance,

604 Regier Place in Martensville looks pretty much like any other modern bi-level home in a new subdivision. Those similarities are deceiving. It's not the only Energy-Star rated house on the block, but it's the first in the neighbourhood to capitalize on sunlight in a big way.

The familiar suburban street-side view masks some simple, yet remarkable technology at the south-facing rear of the house. A pair of roof-mounted hot-water solar panels assist a standard domestic hot water supply. But the most notable feature is a set of solar collectors on the wall. At first easily mistaken for a large picture window, one set of panels pre-heats intake air for the high-efficiency furnace while another acts as a sun-powered space heater. Combined, the solar hot water and solar air systems substantially reduce the home's dependence on energy from natural gas.

"There are conventional and non-conventional technologies in this house, to supplement energy savings," says Robin Riehl, office manager at Homes by Ens, whose company built this concept home in Martensville's Sunset Ridge subdivision. It's an assisted system, combining conventional heating and hot water with supplemental solar.





Photo: Darrell Noakes

"It costs a few hundred dollars more to have all those extras, but there are savings (from energy efficiencies), so that the entire system is cost neutral," he says.

"For a family of four, a lot of homes use \$150 a month in gas, of which it's estimated 40 per cent is hot water," says Jeannine Paul, president of Nexus Solar, who designed the home's solar features. A solar system can reduce hot water costs by about half, or \$30 a month.

"You could either pay SaskEnergy \$30 a month for the gas or you could take that \$30 and give it to the bank because it will pay for the upgrade on the solar water heating system," she says. "It pays for itself right away."

Both the hot water and air systems run off the power of the sun, as well. Photovoltaic cells run the pump that circulates the hot water heating and the fan that blows the warmed air.

"Nothing there is plugged in, like some can be," says Paul.

"We don't have any extensive controls, and that's a bonus," she adds. "There's nothing to go wrong."

In addition to the active solar systems in use in this house, Homes By Ens takes sun orientation into account when designing their properties, such as by finding south-facing lots, says Riehl.

"We're always trying to find ways to bring natural light into the house," he says. "Everybody wants a nice, sunny house. People have been doing passive solar for years, without knowing it. It's not complicated. It's common sense."

Bright and airy, this solar concept home in Martensville saves energy. The warmth of hardwood is captured in the Duraplank flooring. The closed in railing near the end table at right shows attention to small details. The builder knows that were most people like to put their television, and the wall ensures that there won't be any wires showing.

"I couldn't ask for a better house to work with," says Paul. "That's why it's such a privilege to be part of it."

The interior also embodies the sun's warmth. The living room floor is finished in Congoleum Duraplank, a durable, long-wearing material that mimics the look of real wood. The tile used elsewhere in the house is Duraceramic, a limestone composite that can be installed on a regular subfloor without special treatment. A Duraplank trim ties it all together throughout the house.

There is another interesting innovation in this house. When you think of suburban homes, one of the first images to come to mind is the "snout house," a design that comedian Dave Broadfoot once described as the "typical Canadian dwelling," a large garage with a small living quarters tacked on the back. The bi-level design of the Regier Place home removes the garage from prominence, shifting the living room closer to the front and creating usable space above the garage, where the master bedroom is located. It's pleasing to the eye and presents a more lifestyle friendly orientation to the street.

DARRELL NOAKES

# DECOR

## Window Cover Winners:

### A Rainbow of Choices for Style and Comfort

Long gone are the days when window coverings mostly consisted of bland blinds or dreary drapes. Today, a variety of designs, technologies, materials and colours enable window coverings to address any number of factors regarding your home's comfort, privacy and decor.

### Blinds: From Black-Out to Beautiful

The summer heat and cold winter days create a demand for window coverings that keep the cold out, or capture the heat before it turns a home into a daytime sauna. Energy-efficient cellular blinds are an effective, popular way to help keep a home cool. They work by capturing the heat in the honeycomb-shaped backing on the pleated blinds. This same system helps keep winter cold from penetrating a home. Blinds are available in polyester or a natural woven fabric.

Cellular blinds can be even more effective if a blackout surface is applied on the back. Blackout blinds do not completely eliminate light, but they come close. They are most useful in bed-



Today's blinds are both appealing, functional and easy to operate.

rooms, where total darkness is the goal.

Some blinds can be lowered from the top or raised from the bottom. When the top is partially lowered, indirect sunlight enters the room so your wood floor or fabric furniture is not exposed to direct sun.

Popular options are the Hunter Douglas Duette window shades, which come in an extensive selection of textures and fabrics. These shades have vertical honeycomb pleats that open from side to side on the back of the blind. With four kinds

of fabric, from sheer to fully opaque, they address the need for privacy and still offer exceptional light control.

Virginia Pawlik of Prairie Drapery Shoppe Ltd. in Saskatoon represents Hunter Douglas products throughout Saskatchewan. She recommends the Duette Architectella, which offers "cell-within-a-cell" technology.

Virginia Pawlik is certainly an expert in the area of window coverings; she has been in business 29 years and serviced over 8,000 homes. Prairie Drapery Shoppe offers a full range of products

and services from drapes and blinds to custom furniture.

Advancements in technology have made operating blinds easier and safer. A battery-operated remote control moves blinds at the touch of a button; lifting systems can eliminate cords and open or close blinds with a soft touch; and retractable systems keep the cords at a constant length. Window coverings also play a role with acoustics, especially in areas with wood or tile floors.

When it comes to decor, lighter-coloured blinds are making a comeback, but the most interesting room combines them in light, medium and dark colours.

Popular wood blinds also offer an extensive selection of colours and styles. Wood blinds help create a mood that is warm, intimate and airy. A horizontal slat blind can be virtually stationary except for tilting, which provides light control. Once you've looked through them for a few minutes, you don't even notice them. Genuine wood blinds are lighter and thinner than the faux wood options and are available in a number of wood grains, white or off-white.

If you have a great view and a private yard, consider screen shades. A variety of densities enable you to select which transparency best suits your needs. You can

see outside when the screen shades are drawn, and a soft light creates a peaceful ambience in any room. Privacy must be considered, as it's possible to see shadows in the house when shades are drawn in the evening.

#### Dramatic Draperies

Fabrics framing a window are inviting and appealing. They are soft, insulating, colourful and can cover minor design flaws.

Rather than full drapes, side panels and valances are often the most popular choices.

Side panels can be more dramatic, and colours can be more daring than blinds. A combination of shades, side panels and valances add ambience to a room.

Like blinds, the options in colours, textures and materials for drapes is almost limitless. You can choose hues from sunny to sombre; weights from light to heavy; styles such as opulent, romantic or crisp...each adds a different element and feel to a room.

Pawlik says that silk has made a big comeback in for window coverings because of its rich beauty.

While silk drapery with a thick underline provides a regal look, starched fabrics offer tailored, masculine appeal. For an informal feel, cotton chintz or a heavily-textured fabric may be the answer.

Many of today's fabrics are easy to care for, requiring only a light vacuuming or dusting.

#### Quality and Cost Count

Window and interior design specialists are quick to address the quality of the products you are purchasing -- functional fabrics and quality workmanship are crucial to successful selection.

The experts advise that when you examine window coverings, look at the head rail mechanism; check for quality and strength. Blinds should move up and down smoothly and quietly.

To most people, price of window coverings is a key consideration, and there some great economical options. Quantity counts. For example, if a home requires 15 or more blinds, there can be significant cost savings. Material counts as well.

A reasonably-priced alternative is a two-inch metal Venetian blind. Aluminum blinds are economical for large windows.

A window covering consultation can easily last four hours or more.

"We have to make sure clients get not only what they want, but what will work best for their needs and lifestyle," says Pawlik. "I like to make sure they know their full range of options."

JEANNE BERRICK

#### Info:

**Prairie Drapery Shoppe Ltd.**  
2104A St. George Avenue  
Saskatoon  
306-477-1251  
www.prairiedrapery.com



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(306) 665-5366  
www.centennialplumbing.com

# STYLE

## How to Hide Your Floors: Put Sensuous, Sustainable Leather Under Your Feet

Luxurious leather is a classic, sensual material for furniture and clothing. But could it be considered a flooring material? While it's only recently become the latest thing in Saskatoon, leather has been used in flooring in European countries for a long time.

Until recently, leather flooring meant extravagance, using rawhide tiles. Not only was it expensive, upwards of \$40 to \$60 per square foot, but it had a tendency to wear, much like the elbows or cuffs on your favourite leather coat. Raw materials had to be pristine, leaving little opportunity to "green" up manufacturing inputs by recycling leather.

Of course, there are exceptions. Ting London, a small UK fashion design company renowned for combining luxury products with ethical principles, has developed unique modular leather floor tiles made from old belts. Each tile uses hand-selected vintage leather belts, allowing their distinctive patterns to show, including the holes used by the former belt buckles. At



Above: Leather floors are an exciting and sensuous way to go green. Photo courtesy of Torlys.

around \$75 per square foot, it's a brilliant idea that produces a remarkable floor for a particular taste and budget.

A great example of leather flooring that's sensuous, durable, affordable and green comes from Torlys (the name is derived from Toronto — TOR — and Lisbon — LYS), a Canadian company specializing in cork, hardwood, laminate, linoleum and leather flooring since 1988. Torlys is distributed in Saskatoon by Braid Flooring and Western Carpet.

Torlys leather flooring is made from 100 per cent recycled leather and manufactured to meet both Euro-

pean and California indoor air quality standards, the most stringent in the world.

The leather is derived from post-industrial waste, says Torlys Saskatchewan representative Korey Pick. It's composed of leather scraps left over from the manufacture of luxury car seats, shoes, belts and other sources, diverting material that otherwise would end up in landfill sites.

The pieces are converted to bonded leather. The scraps are ground and mixed with environmentally-friendly ingredients that don't produce harmful off-gassing, to form the basis for a durable leather surface. The leather is com-

bined with a high density fibreboard (HDF) core and cork backing and formed into tiles or planks for quick and easy installation. All Torlys flooring uses the same patented Uniclic joint that resists gapping, warping and cupping. It can be installed professionally or by do-it-yourselfers.

The result is a luxurious-looking floor that lasts a long time.

"It's not your traditional leather jacket feel," says Braid Flooring's Christian Braid with a laugh. "It has a lot of durability to it."





Above/below: Anywhere you can put hardwood, you can put durable leather.



"It comes with a 25-year wear warranty," says Braid. "You can't walk through the wear layer on this product. You're not going to see wear patterns. Also, with the makeup of it, it's going to be free of defects. But like any other natural product, whether it's wood or cork or leather, you can scratch them, you can dent them, but from what we've seen, it's quite a durable product."

"This leather flooring is very unique," he says. "[It's] a unique floor for a unique room. This is something that is designed for the special room in the house,

that room where you really want to make a statement, you want something that's unique. That's very trendy on the floor."

"A good rule of thumb would be, anywhere you would put hardwood, you could put leather," says Pick. "We thought if you have a nice room in your house, you'd go get a nice leather flooring for it. Now, consumers are purchasing it for whatever room they want and we're seeing that there is no particular trend on which rooms they are picking. It's going in living rooms, dining rooms, kitchens, anywhere a hardwood

application would go in." It's a trend that Torlys had already seen with cork flooring, says Pick. It's easy to install and home owners are finding all sorts of ways to define their own style.

"Leather has followed cork's trend," says Pick.

"That's an interesting thing about Torlys," says Braid. "They've got a few different product categories — leather, hardwood, laminate, cork, linoleum."

Braid adds that all the products use the same click-lock system, allowing the tiles or planks to connect together like the laminated floors that many people are already familiar with.

"It's a floating floor," he says. "You don't need to add any glues or adhesives, which is an environmental approach. You're keeping the VOCs down in your house."

With the use of non-VOC materials, the flooring maintains indoor air quality. By using post-industrial waste as a source, Torlys leather flooring achieves some of the highest ratings in environmental sustainability.

In May, Torlys earned "triple chain of custody" certification from the Forest Stewardship Council, Sustainable Forestry Initiative and the Program for the Endorsement of Forest Certification.

Chain of custody certification ensures that raw materials are harvested from certified or controlled sources and processed, manufactured and distributed responsibly.

Combining sustainable forestry practices with a manufacturing process that uses thinner veneer layers enables Torlys to reduce demand on hardwood resources, while still producing a flooring that stands up to Saskatoon's dry environment, says Pick.

"The other nice thing about it — just like in Europe — these floors can be reused," Braid says. "They're actually warrantied to be pulled apart three times and reused. In Europe that's quite common. When they move out of their house, homeowners often take their floor with them."

DARRELL NOKES

## Info

### ■ Braid Flooring and Window Fashions

#1 - 2301 Millar Avenue,  
Saskatoon  
306.244.1973  
www.braidflooring.com

# OUTSIDE

## Grooming Your Grounds For Enhanced Outdoor Living

Homeowners are spending time, effort and money to improve the curb — and backyard — appeal of their property.

"Backyards in the past were something that was viewed from the inside of the house out," explained Ron Berry of Exopore Concrete Products Ltd. "Now people view their houses from the outside in."

The new view, he said, also supports a new approach to improvements.

"People are more accepting now of pavers because they are more modern looking and provide curb appeal from the front yards. When you're spending \$500,000 to build a house, another 15 per cent on your lawn, landscaping, paving and low maintenance fence is not a lot in the grand scheme of thing," he said.

"People are spending more on landscapes and having small areas for grass. It's easier to maintain with pavers and retaining walls."

James Polley, who began working when his dad established Allan's Landscaping Ltd. in 1967, has noticed a change in the Saskatoon marketplace.



Photo Courtesy: Allan's Landscaping Products

"In the past few years, the trends in the landscaping industry have been transforming people's yards into their outdoor recreational vacation spot," said Polley.

"The hot items this year are coloured rock, colored edging, sprinkler systems with automatic timers and rain sensors with drip lines to conserve on water, fire pits, and fountains."

Polley identified colour and design as the hot products this year.

"Black, lava, and black wood mulch as accessory

colors for exterior accenting are hot," he said. "Retaining walls and larger patios up scaled to higher end paving stones of all colours and shapes depending on the taste of the customer. The major services we are providing this year are to design and to build executive outdoor living spaces for all sectors of society."

Over the past three decades, Allan's has grown to offer more services, commercial landscaping, and bulk materials from dirt fill to decorative fountains and everything in between.

An attractive patio can be created with stylish pavers.

Landscaping is an individual choice.

"Why do all of us dress differently? Why do we not all have the same type of houses?" said Polley. "It's their own unique personable living space that can be shown off to public in the front yard and the back yard can be a private space to be enjoyed by the whole family unit."

Polley cautions homeowners in selecting individuals to do the work.

"The advice I can provide to someone who is considering landscaping their home is to have a qualified SNL (Saskatchewan Nursery Landscape Association Member) to go through the project and decide on an estimate or design," he recommended. "The homeowner would also have to consider how long they plan to live at the residence."

Landscaping adds value to properties, Polley said.

"A beautiful landscaped yard is something to look at and admire and also to be functional and used by the whole family. How do you put a cost on quality of life?" he said.

"In my 30 plus years of being in the landscaping industry, I have yet to ever hear back from any customers that they were disappointed by having their landscaping enhanced to a quality outdoor living space. There is a little bit of pain when people decide to go up to an enhanced yard landscaped, but when they get to that plateau try and get them down to a lower standard of outdoor living."

Meanwhile, Berry of Expocrete said pavers also have become a useful product for inner city in-fill and re-development projects, providing many with an upscale face lift.

"People are having second thoughts about concrete only. Our climatic conditions -- with the freeze and thaw cycles -- can create cracks, chips and flakes that are difficult and expensive to repair," he said. "Pavers can be easily repaired and now come in a wide variety of colors, patterns and textures."

Expocrete Concrete Products Ltd. is a leading manufacturer of paving stones, retaining wall systems and masonry units. The company was established 30 years ago in Acheson, near Edmonton, and has added a state-of-the-art plant in Balzac, near Calgary.

Expocrete acquired Weldon's Concrete on 11<sup>th</sup> Street West in Saskatoon and has developed a living showroom for all of its products.

"People can see all of the wall systems and pavers on display when they come

to visit us," Berry said. "We will provide them a dealers list so they can buy through their favourite or nearest retail store."

Expocrete supplies a dealer network of 35 retail outlets in Saskatchewan including RONA, Co-op Lumber and independent dealers.

The company's product is most visible along the South Saskatchewan River in downtown Saskatoon where its pavers cover 100,000 square feet of River Landing.

"With 30 years of experience, we recognize the demand for green building products and are happy to offer products that are environmentally beneficial and can contribute to the process of achieving LEED points," Berry said.

He said paving stones have many advantages over concrete and asphalt.

"We offer a wide range of different surface finishes, colors, shapes and laying patterns to compliment the architectural style of the home," Berry said. "In addition, there is a moderate initial cost, can be installed by a homeowner and stained or

broken pavers can easily be lifted and replaced.

To give old world charm, a specialized tumbling process is used that rounds out the edges and corners. This "Roman" appearance gives the feel of a patio or driveway that could have been built centuries ago.

JOE RALKO

#### Info

■ **Allan's Landscaping Ltd.**  
777-60th Street West, Saskatoon  
Store - 306.384.4763,  
Landscape Services  
306.249.4600  
[www.allanslandscaping.com](http://www.allanslandscaping.com)

■ **Weldon's Concrete Products, A Division of Expocrete Concrete**  
1800 11th Street West,  
Saskatoon  
306.665.3211  
[www.expocrete.com](http://www.expocrete.com)

# THE ROOM

## Summertime Living is Easy In the Outdoor Living Room

More and more people are spending their time, effort and money to enjoy a Saskatchewan summer in their own backyard.

"The current trend is that more people are personalizing their backyards and patios more than they used to," said Curtis Shawaga, sales manager for Paradise LeisureScapes in Saskatoon.

"People are willing to sink more money into what used to be called the backyard patio because it has become a focal point of their home and of their lives. The outdoor living room now is a very important area of the house."

Paradise LeisureScapes, founded in 1970, carries all the products to bring the comforts of indoors to the great outdoors. From outdoor area rugs to dishwasher-safe patio dinnerware, their accessories can handle anything our Saskatchewan climate can dish out.

"In the past, the typical backyard patio had a table and light, stackable chairs. People would shop for these sets at big box type stores. Those people still exist but what we've seen in the last couple of years are couples who want to develop a complete backyard patio room,"



Today's outdoor furniture is sophisticated in design, comfortable and durable.

Shawaga explained.

"This includes not only upscale furniture but landscaping with granite, slate or marble. Some are even building complete kitchens as part of the patio. In addition, there are those that incorporate a pool or landscaped hot tub with the backyard patio design."

Planning is the key to success, he said.

Paradise LeisureScapes works with designer Sasha Reiber's House Appeal to create a complete three-di-







they are redeveloping their backyard patio. They know a high-end patio set will begin at \$3,000," he said. "That's because we, as a society, know that there's a big price difference in cars. For example, it's general knowledge that a Lexus will cost more than a typical Ford product."

Paradise LeisureScapes began in 1970 as a swimming pool company specializing in new pool construction. Originally known as Paradise Pools, the company expanded into pool renovations and product supply. It has been serving Saskatoon customers since 1970 and has evolved to offer customers product lines including hot tubs, BBQs and pools to meet their backyard living needs.

Three years ago, the company unveiled Saskatchewan's largest leisure living store. The new facility is almost five times the showroom space of its original Saskatoon location at 522 Duchess Street.

"Since then, we've been constantly improving our product offerings to include all-weather wicker patio furniture, outdoor area rugs, pergolas and complete games room solutions," said Shawaga.

JOE RALKO

#### Info

■ Paradise Leisurescapes  
2515 Millar Avenue  
Saskatoon  
316.244.6700  
www.paradiselleisurescapes

mensional backyard design for customers to experience the backyard patio before work begins.

Another trend Shawaga has noticed in the past seven years he has been with Paradise LeisureScapes is

the knowledge level of the customers who walk in the door.

Sticker shock is no longer a concern, he said.

"People are more accepting of the cost of quality today, especially when



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# SPOTLIGHT

## Green Renovator Recycles 80 Per Cent of Demolition Materials

Michael Leggett, owner of Equinox Home Innovations, didn't plan on becoming a home renovator. Degrees in fine arts and design, and a masters in community planning and development had prepared him for another career path, until an encounter with indoor mould threatened the life of his sister.

"My studies were in the environment and sustainable development," he said. "It was my sister's run-in with mould and situation with cancer that really got us thinking how the home environment and indoor air quality are so much more related than we often realize."

Leggett's striving for LEED Gold standards in all his renovations company is one of few in the country that comprehensively embrace green renovation. Equinox recycles a minimum of 80 per cent of demolition materials. Anything of value is sold, with all proceeds donated to an overseas charity. Re-usable materials are donated to the Habitat for Humanity Re-Store, while recyclables go to the recycling depot.

"That (less than) 20 per cent that's left may go to the



Photo: Garrell Neakes

TOP: The home of Michael and Tabbi Leggett demonstrates the renovator's personal commitment to green and sustainable building. The 1928 City Park house is a labour of love, as Leggett painstakingly restores the grandeur of the vintage structure.

RIGHT: Leggett describes his father as an inventor and visionary with a passion of landscaping. "From earliest childhood, we grew up with Japanese gardens and landscapes," he says. "It's in my blood to do this design work."

landfill, but even there they have their own recycling arrangements," he said. "That, we're really proud of. And those are things that are across the board. Anyone who's taken us on as a company partakes of that commitment."

Even the most unlikely materials can find reclama-



Photo: Garrell Neakes



Photo: Darrell Noakes

TOP: The renovated master bedroom conveys a sense of serenity and simplicity.

LEFT: Leggett calls this peaceful space the prayer room. The earth tones lend a sense of comfort and ease. Leggett says this room will soon be known as the baby room.

tion, as Leggett recalls a recent instance in which someone eagerly found productive use for broken pieces of tile left over from a renovation project. Almost nothing gets thrown away.

Small things also make a difference. The company doesn't charge extra for the non-VOC paints it uses as a matter of course. Employees car pool to save gas.

"It's not that difficult," Leggett noted. Making green choices isn't an expensive luxury. Thinking in terms of our external environment and indoor air quality is very viable.

Plus, there seems to be a growing market for green renovation in Saskatoon. Leggett said business has doubled during the past three months, to the extent that he's had to hire additional employees.

People are more willing to upgrade what they have, rather than move to someplace new, he said.

Keeping the scale of the company manageable and personable is important to Leggett. As a smaller company, said Leggett, Equinox can become more intimate with the job site and the customer.

"That, to us, is fairly important, that kind of on the ground connection to the work," he said. "I think we're very happy at that scale. Most of the time, I'm there on the job with my crew working on the project."

"I love it," Leggett says of his business and the work. "It's a lot of fun. To move it in the direction that it's been going, green renovations, has been really exciting. It feels like we're pushing a certain standard and encouraging others along the way."

What better way could Leggett demonstrate his commitment to green renovation, than by making this approach integral to how he upgraded his own home.

Leggett and his wife, Taban, bought their house, a 1928 two-storey house in City Park, a year ago.

A typical renovation might take two or three months, but the couple's own home "has been a work in progress," said Michael. He likes to take the time to ensure that everything's done well.

DARRELL NOAKES

## Info

■ **Equinox Home Innovations Ltd.**  
722 4th Avenue North  
Saskatoon  
306.292.0886  
www.equinoxhomes.ca

# PRACTICAL

## Where to find green products, services and advice

So you've decided that it's time to go green. There are plenty of services in Saskatoon to help you renovate your current home or plan your new one.

## Canada Green Building Council —Saskatchewan Chapter

A good place to start is the Saskatchewan Chapter of the Canada Green Building Council, made up of volunteers within the provincial building industry working to make Saskatchewan a leader in sustainable buildings and communities. The organization primarily provides resources to its members, but also seeks to engage citizens in sustainable design and construction. Using the services of a council member is one sure way to see to it that your project truly will be green and completed according to the standards of the Canada Green Building Council.

■ 200-642 Broadway Ave.  
Saskatoon  
306.665.0774  
www.cagbc.org/chapters/saskatchewan



Photo Courtesy EnDur Roofing System.

Recycled trees make durable roofing that mimics the appearance of traditional shakes and shingles. The material resists climate, insects, mould and mildew, and comes with 50-year warranty.

## Saskatchewan Eco Network

The Saskatchewan Eco Network is a non-profit, non-government organization of environmental groups. Network staff help members, media, government and the public connect with others who have skills and information they need. Network members, listed on the organization's website, can provide information on subjects that include community and rooftop gardening, community trees and the urban forest, sustainable and active transportation, waste reduc-

tion and recycling, dark-sky-friendly lighting, and pesticide free gardening. Saskatchewan Eco Network also publishes Saskatchewan's Green Directory (see below).  
■ 203-115 2nd Ave. North  
Saskatoon  
306.656.1275  
www.econet.sk.ca

## Saskatchewan's Green Directory

Are you getting a green product, or one that's merely greenwashed? People want to choose well, but it's hard to get information about what's

available, or where to purchase. The Green Directory, a project of the Saskatchewan Eco-Network with assistance from the Saskatchewan Research Council and the Ministry of Environment, is designed to provide that information. The Green Directory currently is designed mainly for people who are renovating their homes, but even new home builders will find the extensive listings useful. Services and products chosen for listing are based on local production, conservation, no ozone-depleting substances, environmentally ethical and energy efficiency.



The directory describes what to look for when choosing a green product and lists suppliers who carry the product in Saskatchewan.

■ [www.saskatchewangreendirectory.org](http://www.saskatchewangreendirectory.org)

### Saskatchewan EnerGuide for Houses

The Saskatchewan EnerGuide for Houses program, developed by SaskEnergy in cooperation with Natural Resources Canada, helps homeowners improve the comfort and energy efficiency of their homes. The program provides provincial and federal grants for homeowners who complete approved energy efficiency upgrades. The program is available until March 31, 2011.

Eligible improvements include heating and ventilation upgrades, insulation, air sealing, draft proofing, upgrading air conditioning, water heaters, solar hot water and water conservation.

Homeowners start by booking a pre-retrofit evaluation from one of the authorized service organizations. After you've received your evaluation, you have 18 months to complete all your retrofits. You need to com-

plete your post-retrofit evaluation within this time, as well, before you can receive your grants. You'll get up to \$5000 each from the federal and provincial governments.

■ Sun Ridge Group  
[www.sunridgegroup.ca](http://www.sunridgegroup.ca)

■ AmeriSpec  
306.652.8779

■ Energy Wise Solutions  
877.787.4328

### Energy Efficient Rebate for New Homes

Saskatchewan's Ministry of Environment offers energy rebates through SaskEnergy. The Energy Efficient Rebate for New Homes program provides incentives to purchase or build a new energy-efficient home that is ENERGY STAR qualified, R-2000 certified or has an EnerGuide for New Homes rating of 80 or above. Rebates are also available for solar domestic hot water heating, qualifying CAN/CSA-G48 compliant geothermal, drain water heat recovery, and qualifying natural gas appliances such as clothes dryers, barbecues, cooktops and ranges.

■ [www.saskenergy.com/saving\\_energy/energystarnewhomes.asp](http://www.saskenergy.com/saving_energy/energystarnewhomes.asp)

DARRELL NOKES

### Durable, sustainable roofs made from recycled rubber

Saskatchewan's Green Directory lists building materials, but doesn't include roofing suppliers. EnDur Roofing System makes roofing materials from crumb rubber derived from recycled tires. The resultant roofing, which resembles traditional roof materials such as cedar shakes, resists harsh climate conditions, insect infestations, mould and mildew. It's easy to install, maintenance-free and long-lasting, with a 50-year warranty at a cost comparable to cedar shakes.

There just aren't a lot of roofing materials that fall under the category of green building products, says EnDur president Ken Foord. Seeing that gap in the market, Foord and his brother began working on the product about 10 years ago, thinking that the durability of crumb rubber would make a perfect, long-lasting roofing material.

The material must be popular. EnDur's manufacturing operation, based in Saskatoon, has expanded twice since it started and an additional plant has opened in Edmonton. EnDur's roofing has been chosen by homebuilders, developers, roofing companies and eco-village developments across North America.

The material is 93 per cent recycled tires, meaning that a 4000 square foot roof would remove 1100 used tires from the scrap heap. The National Research Council's Canadian Construction Materials Centre has evaluated that the product is suitable for new and re-roofing projects. The Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation permits the use of EnDur Roofing System in construction financed or insured under the National Housing Act.

#### Info

■ EnDur Roofing System, Saskatoon  
306.653.3629 or 306.612.3339  
[www.enduroofing.com](http://www.enduroofing.com)  
e-mail: [kfoord@aol.com](mailto:kfoord@aol.com)

DARRELL NOKES



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# BACKWORDS



Photo: Darrell Nokes

### Fascinating Heritage Book Features Saskatchewan's Stone Buildings

Stone has been a significant building material in the history of Saskatchewan, from the First Nations tepee rings, medicine wheels and figures of old to the most contemporary of homes and commercial structures. It's attractive, durable and adds a natural, human touch to otherwise austere architecture.

Legacy of Stone is a book that celebrates Saskatchewan's stone buildings throughout history. Authors Margaret Hrynuk and Frank

Korvmaker, along with photographer Larry Easton, have documented 50 fieldstone buildings in the province in this luxurious Coteau Books production. Bernie Flaman, the provincial heritage architect, contributed the introduction.

This attractively-produced tome includes stories of farmhouses, homes in urban communities, places of worship, public buildings and ruins. Margaret Hrynuk uses her extensive journalistic experience to present accounts of the buildings and their creators. Frank Korvmaker examines the province's different types of fieldstone. Larry Easton's superb photographs along with fascinating historical documents and pictures

provide a comprehensive visual record of these unique and truly indigenous buildings.

The prominence of stone as a building material, is of course, evident at the University of Saskatchewan. In 1908, the institution decided to build its campus buildings in the Collegiate Gothic style. The material of choice for exterior of the College Building was specified by architects Brown and Vallance to be rough-cut Tyn-dall stone.

A supply of fieldstone north of the campus further encouraged using the local material as a tradition in building the university structures.

Stone is an ideal Saskatchewan building material. As

Saskatchewan Hospital Chapel. The stepped buttress-like ends of the Saskatchewan Hospital Chapel in North Battleford suggests a design based upon a more substantial church. Photo: Larry Easton

Bernard Flaman says in his introduction: "It is a material from this place and this landscape. It looks good in any of our four distinctive seasons and in the clear sunlight that is one of the defining aspects of Saskatchewan."

"Because stone is beautiful but also durable and therefore permanent," writes Hrynuk, "people use it to build structures that they think are important,

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and hence they remain so to us. But it is not just the structure that is interesting; it is also the people who lived within it."

According to Hryniuk, the stone buildings of Saskatchewan include a wide variety from fieldstone commonly seen in farmyards to the highly polished material of commercial and public buildings. She estimates that according to various archives, there are perhaps 500-1000 stone structures in the province. Most of them were built in the southern half, though the area possesses a scarcity of stone.

Though the best-known quarried stone building in the province is likely the Legislative Building in Regina, Legacy of Stone primarily profiles fieldstone buildings rather than institutional and commercial structures. They reflect the art of local stonemasons, and most were constructed in the late 19th to early 20th centuries.

"Indeed, the stones illustrated in this book do talk, and speak of the natural forces that created them, and of the workmen who selected their finest features and incorporated them into some of Saskatchewan's most interesting historic buildings," writes Hryniuk.

Less costly and more practical building material replaced much stone with the import of lumber by railway. Bricks were made of local clays. At the turn of the 21st century, stone was still popular—more machine cut rather than fieldstone. Now it is often cut into a thin veneer and replaced over a wood frame wall. Synthetic stone, with much of the same physical allure of orig-



Saskatchewan Hospital Chapel. The stepped buttress-like ends of the Saskatchewan Hospital Chapel in North Battleford suggests a design based upon a more substantial church.

inal stone, has become more common.

Legacy of Stone celebrates the craft of the stonemason, one of the oldest and most skilled trades in the world, as well as one of the earlier trades to be recorded in Saskatchewan.

These tradespeople were in demand in the late 19th and 20th centuries for the building of farmhouses, barns, schools, churches and commercial buildings. Stones could be harvested freely from settlers who saw them as an impediment to farming. Well over 200 stonemasons practiced their livelihood in Saskatchewan before the middle of the 20th century.

The lives of five—Adam Cantelon, Nels Holer Nelson, Charlie and Harold Parker and Richard Talmay—are documented in Legacy of Stone.

The abandoned fieldstone farm buildings of Saskatchewan are a rare and rewarding insight in the southern part of the province, reminders of the province's rich agri-

cultural heritage, once the mainstay of its economy.

Stones were impediments to farm machinery so they were often cleared and piled at the corner of a field. Some farmers would give them away to stonemasons and others used them as a source of income.

Fieldstone farm buildings survive, not just because of their building material, but also because it often cost more than it was worth in both time and money to demolish them. Sentimentality and attractiveness accounted for their survival as well.

The timeless charm and appeal of these farm buildings are showcased in Larry Easton's photographs which accompany Hryniuk's well-researched stories of the families who built and inhabited them. Some of them are occupied and preserved, and others are abandoned, but still impressive.

Stone houses in Saskatchewan's towns are some of the province's outstanding historical residences. Those built before the turn of the

century often have distinctive architectural influences. Unfortunately, many of these homes over time were inappropriately renovated, but owners aware of the historical value of original building materials have attempted to restore them to their original beauty.

For example, Saskatoon's handsome, rustic Alexander Residence, built in 1912, has been renewed by its owners, Ward and Annette Stehner. Since they purchased it in 2000, they have been working towards a restoration of the home based on research into history and period building and period techniques.

This is not the first time Saskatchewan's stone buildings have been documented. In fact, the Saskatchewan Heritage Foundation provided the authors with access to the research of the late Cecil Hayward and his wife Susan of Assiniboia who spent the last 25 years researching and photographing the historic structures.

Legacy of Stone is not only a rich visual and historic treat about Saskatchewan but an invitation for readers to get in their cars and search out these priceless heritage buildings for themselves.

DOVA STURMANIS

#### Info

##### ■ Legacy of Stone: Saskatchewan's Stone Buildings

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